

Some eclipse watchers fear they hurt their eyes. Here's what you should know.

August 25 2017, by Nara Schoenberg, Chicago Tribune

At the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary at UIC, a front desk employee says he's gotten calls from patients afraid that they're experiencing eclipse-related eye damage.

"It's mostly been for burning and pain," said the employee, who estimated that the clinic has gotten about a dozen eclipse-related calls in the last few days.

"We have them come in."

Following Monday's historic solar eclipse, those who fear they looked directly at the sun and permanently damaged their eyes are posting on [social media](#), doing Google searches and calling doctors.

According to an [article](#) posted yesterday on the American Academy of Ophthalmology website, there have been no confirmed cases of eclipse-related [vision](#) loss, but 10 concerned people sought advice at a triage area at Vanderbilt Eye Institute.

Eye pain or discomfort probably aren't signs of eclipse [damage](#), because the retina doesn't have pain nerves, according to the article. Instead, the article says, be on the lookout for symptoms such as:

Blurry vision.

Headache.

A blind spot in your central vision; this can be in one or both eyes.

Increased sensitivity to light.

Distorted vision: A straight line might look like it's bending, or a door jamb could look curvy.

Changes in the way you see color.

It's important to see a doctor if you have eclipse-related eye damage, the article says. He or she can measure the extent of the problem. Many people recover within months, but some experience a permanent blind spot or visual distortion.

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Citation: Some eclipse watchers fear they hurt their eyes. Here's what you should know. (2017, August 25) retrieved 23 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-08-eclipse-watchers-eyes.html>

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